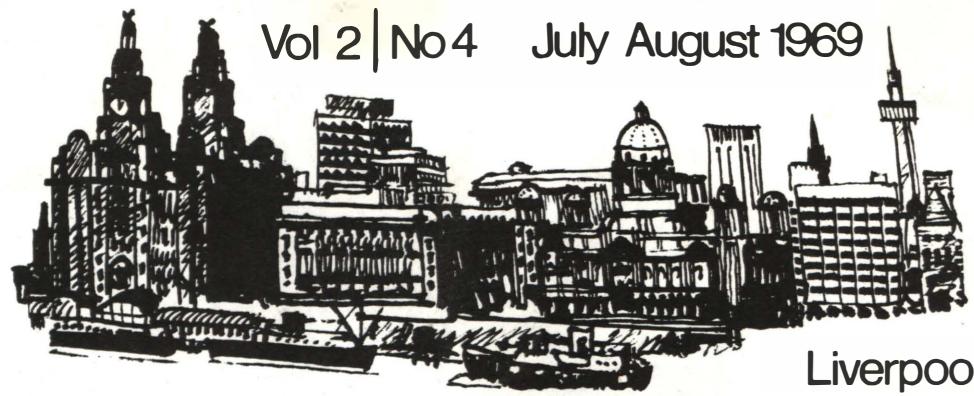


Merseyside UFO BULLETIN

Vol 2 | No 4 July August 1969



Liverpool

John Harney



John Rimmer



Alan Sharp



Editorial

One of the points that emerged strongly from the Wakefield BUFORA meeting was the considerable resistance to the involvement of psychiatrists and psychologists in the UFO problem. To an extent this is understandable so long as the popular image of psychiatrists and psychologists is that of people who are concerned only with the mentally disturbed. This is quite wrong. The psychiatrist is just as concerned (probably more concerned) with perfectly 'normal' people. To suggest that UFO witnesses, particularly contactees, should be given some sort of psychological examination is not to imply that such people are unbalanced. There is no reason why those ufologists who hold that the UFOs are craft from another planet should oppose such investigation. If their hypothesis is correct it is important to know why some people are 'chosen' and not others. This reason is as likely to be psychological as not. Let us then welcome psychologists and psychiatrists into our subject. We should perhaps attempt to overcome the resistance that many witnesses show towards any form of psychological investigation of their experience, by demonstrating that such an investigation does not cast any aspersions on their sanity or intelligence. We can do this by ourselves having a clearer understanding of the work psychiatrists and psychologists do.

--- John A Rimmer

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An illustration by Michael English from the cover of the 'Under-ground' magazine 'ALBION'. It depicts many of the elements referred to in the article "UFOs as an Anti-scientific symbol". At the top of the drawing is the Holy Grail, itself a possible archetype in the growth of the UFO image. This is flanked by two 'conventional', Adamski-type UFOs. The dragon is also a possible UFO image, being linked in the writings of John Michell with prehistoric 'leys'. The girl represents the magical forces that have been sleeping since Celtic times. Other elements in the picture include Druidical mistletoe, magical Pentagrams, the sword Excalibur, and the Glastonbury Zodiac. The writing around the circle below the Grail, and by the girl's face is in Tolkien's Elvish script.

Quote of the Week:

“Man may as well aspire to fly to the Moon as to cross the Atlantic Ocean by steam navigation...”

From Dionysius Lardner's "Museum of Science and the Arts", an early nineteenth century popular science book. Quoted by C. Maxwell Cade at the BUFORA Northern Conference, Wakefield.

THE UFO AS AN ANTI-SCIENTIFIC SYMBOL

by John A. Rimmer

In a recent article Quentin Crewe puts forward an interesting thought on the public's attitude to UFOs and ufologists. (1) He cites a recent appearance of FSR's Gordon Creighton on "24 Hours", in confrontation with Patrick Moore. Crewe cannot understand why people like Gordon Creighton should be invited to television shows, and then hardly allowed to speak, and concludes that the public half-believe in UFOs, and have to keep knocking down the guardians of their belief in a sort of propitiation ritual.

The particular discussion under review was a classic of this genre. Despite Mr Creighton's continued assertions that he did not seriously consider that UFOs were extraterrestrial craft, Patrick Moore felt obliged to spend the greater part of the limited time proving that UFOs were not extraterrestrial craft. During this performance Moore emerged not as an arch-sceptic, which is a perfectly understandable attitude when confronted with such a tendentious subject, but as an unscientific and emotionally prejudiced person. The lunacy of the whole episode was in the BEC's naive belief that the question of UFOs was one that an astronomer could be expected to be an expert on. It would have been equally valuable--or valueless--to have had a soil analyst, etymologist, or business efficiency expert.

However, to return to Quentin Crewe's suggestion. It does appear to a perceptive observer that there is a serious contradiction in the public's attitude to the question of the UFO. Mention UFOs to a friend who is not a student of the subject and the initial reaction is one of laughter. As an editorial in this Bulletin has indicated, ufology is an incredibly mirthful subject amongst "boring suburbanites." (2) However, on further investigation this attitude seems to break down. Pressed, an outsider will admit that "there could be something in it." More times than not they will admit to having read a UFO book. Ultimately may come the admission that they too have seen a UFO.

In a not-untypical encounter such as this one can see the conflict of attitudes in an individual. At the outset is the Establishment Attitude, fostered by such media as television and the national press and their scientific pundits. One cannot blame the media for this attitude, as it is one found only too often within the ranks of ufologists themselves. One need only mention NICAP's attitude to contact claims, and just about everybody's attitude to John Keel. On the other hand there is the public's desire for novelty and surprise and a growing anti-scientific, almost neo-Luddite, movement. Concurrent with increasing scientific development and technological advances there is a vast opposing populist emotion. The growth of the computer atrocity story, the reaction to transplant operations, the development of pastoralism almost as a political movement amongst minority communities in America are all symptoms of this. (3) These are on too large a scale to be dismissed as a few reactionaries and Peter Simples. The UFO is the one thing which under present circumstances stands almost impregnable against the scientific floodtide. It is little wonder therefore that the UFO is being adopted by many as a sort of symbol of the neo-Luddite cause. It is the last refuge of the old magic. It is seen, literally and metaphorically, as the Holy Grail, unattainable, unimaginably remote, yet always near enough to lead us on in a hopeless chase. The ufologist is the necromancer who can cast his spells upon the scientist and leave him stumbling in the enchanted forest, blundering into trees marked "Temperature Inversion," or "Weather Balloon," and falling into thorns and nettles labelled "Venus through a Heat Haze."

So much for the Wagnerian imagery. However, the concept of the UFO as being magical and anti-scientific is valid and important. There is nowhere on the face of the Earth, and never has been, any society that has existed without magic. We are, in Europe, America and the other technologically advanced nations, very close to this situation. We have driven magic underground, but we have not

eliminated it. It may be a dangerous thing if we do. The UFO is a fairly pleasant, often beautiful, rarely malignant piece of magic, far preferable to the violence and ugliness of some other magical survivals in our age. Perhaps we should not attempt too much to explain the UFOs, either in terms of space-craft or unknown forms of plasma, or even pieces of detached psyche. On the face of it we shall not be able to do this anyway. The UFO may be just there, for us to marvel at, worship, chase, gape at, or get little frissons of fear from.

Jung saw the UFO as the Circle, the Mandala, a symbol of wholeness and permanence.(4) Perhaps in its permanent inaccessibility it is a symbol of purity. In a world violated and sullied by radiation, smoke, fumes, the ~~EXEMPT~~ excrement of a scientific society, the UFO is almost a Virgin image of our time. Consider the so-called occupants of these craft. What are they but the dwarves and elves, the pastoral inhabitants of unsullied hedgerow and field and the dark Northern forests that we have left behind us. Here they come now from the UFOs, reminding us of our rural background. The Hippie mystic sees the UFO as the Grail above Glastonbury; the French farmer sees the "occupants" as small, grotesque creatures of tree-root and woodland glade; the American factory worker sees the "men in black" as a re-creation of a romantic Chicago Gangsterdom that never was (even their cars are from the past). Each perceives a phenomenon that is a part of their past, a movement against the Establishment's glorification of scientific progress.

Like all effective magic the UFO is a perversion of the orthodoxy, rather than something totally different from it. It is the space-craft of the scientist, but a space-craft that does strange, irrational things: the occupants, although weird and unearthly, apparently wear space suits not so different from the ones worn by those symbols of scientific progress, the astronauts. Magic in the past was twisted from religion--the Black Mass a horrific perversion of Christian ritual, not something totally different, but close enough to disturb even more. So the UFO parodies, one hopes in a more pleasant form, the developments of science. The UFO's essentially unscientific nature can be seen in the strange, almost obsessive interest it holds for scientists who are most vehement in denying its existence. A number of Patrick Moore's books suddenly introduce UFOs into the discussion of some astronomical problem, only to dismiss them as something of no importance. (5) One is reminded of atheists who spend a disturbing amount of time disproving the existence of the Devil. Other scientists, like Hymek, perhaps Condon, act as sceptical priests, who while not accepting the positive existence of ghosts, feel that it is worthwhile going to the trouble of exorcising them.

For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. Perhaps for every scientific advance there is an equal and opposite mystical reaction. It has been noted that a large number of UFO incidents occurred in the U.S.A. after the launching of the first Russian satellite. This could be viewed as the reaction to that scientific advance. It will be interesting to see if there is a comparable reaction after the moon landing. It would be instructive to see if any of the major flap periods over the last twenty-three years followed immediately upon a major scientific advance. Certainly the first flaps of '46-'47 followed the development of nuclear weapons. If science is a movement into the future the UFO if it is a reaction, must be a movement into the past. We have seen above how the form of the UFO and especially its occupants are often reverions to ancient forms. If one analyses reports in more depth one can see a number of almost sentimental elements that are strongly opposed to the conventional view of the UFO as a futuristic phenomenon.

The stories told by the early contactees were apparently of journeys to incredibly advanced civilizations. However, a closer look reveals that the futurism described is already dated. It is the futurism of the thirties, the New York World's Fair and Amazing Stories magazine. The architecture of these advanced worlds is either that of Superman's Krypton (6) or an idealised Graeco-Roman myth. Images, perhaps, of an idyllic childhood, although the witnesses of these early contact phenomena may not have been science fiction addicts, I doubt if any one of them does not connect

Superman with secure childhood afternoons in some safe American mid-Western town.

The anti-scientific image of the UFO is now incredibly complex. Whether this is due to some fundamental change in the phenomenon itself, or to a new attitude that is being brought to bear on the study of the subject, is a matter of debate. It is clear that the UFO mystery now is one of Gothic strangeness and wonder. It has retreated so far from scientific method that it is doubtful if it will ever be capable of explanation in any rational manner. The world of the UFO is peopled with a Tolkien-like collection of entities with no rational pattern of behaviour. If there is an overall plan it must be infinitely more convoluted than the most farcical Italian opera *Buffo*. In this at least the victory of anti-science is almost complete. Nothing so incredibly irrational could be taken seriously by any scientist. The Condon Report can be seen only as a document of surrender. The people who consciously adopt an anti-scientific stance often regard themselves as a resistance movement - the "underground." Every resistance movement requires a figurehead, both as a rallying point for the committed, and as an example to the uncommitted but vaguely sympathetic masses. In this movement the UFO is the Che Guevara image. Although "killed" by the CIA of scientific analysis the underground is still wearing its metaphorical "Che Lives" badges and the UFOs are still there, and not just in the Bolivian jungle!

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1. Sunday Mirror, July 10, 1969.
2. MUFOB, Vol. 2, No.1, Jan-Feb, 1969.
3. American Utopias.
4. JUNG, C.G., Flying Saucers - A Modern Myth of Things Seen in the Skies.
5. MOORE, PATRICK, The Planet Venus (2nd. Ed., 1959), Chapter XII - "The Phantom Satellite": "During the amusing flying saucer craze of a few years back, attempts were made to revive the phantom moon, and to suggest that it was nothing more nor less than an artificial space-station, which was dismantled when the 'Venusians' ~~had~~ had no further use for it(!)"
6. FEIFFER, JULES, Great Comic-Book Heroes.

L O C A L U F O R E P O R T

Crosby, Lancashire

August 19, 1969 2020 BST

Among the many witnesses to this UFO event was Mr George Cregeen, of the Liverpool Daily Post & Echo. In the Echo, on August 20, he wrote:-

..Like many people on Merseyside, I saw the flying object last night, which was the talking point this morning over many a breakfast table.

Liverpool Airport had reports that it looked like an aircraft with flames coming from it. Local police stations were inundated with calls and early alerts were put out in case an aircraft or ship was in distress. But after an hour's checking by the Air Traffic Control Centre at Broughton, near Preston, the alerts were cancelled and the identity of the object remained unsolved. The Ministry of Defence were also asked but they could find no explanation. One spokesman said that he thought it was the setting sun reflected from an aircraft.

As an eye witness, I can completely discount that theory. Here, for the benefit of all the student research organisations, flying saucer societies and anyone else who might be interested is my first hand account.

Time: Approximately 8.20 p.m.

Place viewed from: Lancashire shore at Hall Road, Crosby.

Position of object: Over the Dee beyond Hilbre Island.

Description of object: It was a very bright yellow light with orange flares around the edge.

Circumstances of viewing: I was watching passing shipping through

very powerful binoculars. I had just seen two aircraft pass overhead when my attention was attracted to a brilliant light.

I trained my binoculars on it and it appeared to be circular in shape. It was stationary and at about 1,000 feet. At one time it seemed to take on the shape of a cluster with a bright yellow centre and a number of smaller orange lights around it. I watched it for a total period of about 45 seconds during which it remained in the one position. It suddenly went out like a light being switched off.

As a person with very many hours flying experience and trained in aircraft recognition, I have learned to distinguish reflections from aircraft and this was definitely not in that category. Neither was it a flare...

THE LATEST WARMINSTER LANDING

by Arthur Shuttlewood

Thirteen people were in our skywatching party at Cradle Hill, Warminster, on the evening of Wednesday, August 27, 1969. An unlucky number? Not so far as a dramatic double UFO sighting and landing were concerned, on this auspicious occasion, anyway!

Accept or reject the following - that is your prerogative:

My team mates, Bob Strong and Sybil Champion, left the hill at 9.30 p.m., after we had been observing for about an hour. They went off to Starr Hill, midway between Battlesbury and Scratchbury, other well known viewing points locally. The remaining 11 were:

Ex-naval commander's wife, Mrs Kathleen Bent; her friend Mrs Eileen Keck, of Winchester; Mr Ian Cowan and his wife Kathryn, Bournemouth; American Mrs Gwen Smith, of Seattle; Mr Christopher Trubridge, Gosport; his friend Mr Robert Coates, Yorkshire; an American-speaking visitor who calls himself Diophantes, from Sirius 6 (his own claim, not mine); Mr Julian Butler, Mr John Alford and myself, of Warminster.

At 10.10 p.m. the attention of several pairs of eyes was caught by what Mr Butler described as 'a burning bush,' about 600 yards south-west of our vantage point on Cradle Hill. It is a little right of the West Wilts Golf Clubhouse and a few hundred yards short of it, at a point near a long and straggling hedge-row.

Frankly, I suspected it was rubbish being burnt by the farmer, Mr Geoffrey Gale (it is his land); but we all commented how strange that this circular flame should suddenly erupt, without warning, and no smouldering or smoke noticed prior to this by our keen-eyed group.

Chris and Bob immediately tore across the intervening land. Others, self included, climbed the white gate and followed at a more leisurely pace. (Perhaps because we are older?) The burning effect 'died' on the ground and we were instantly aware of a large orange ellipsoid that hung stationary over the top of the lighted clubhouse at low altitude - we estimated somewhere around 100 feet at most. It was immobile for a good three minutes, according to my watch.

John said: "It's far too big and brilliant for Mars, although it's the same colour." Julian said: "No - Mars is away to the left, higher over Cop Heap." And there was no lingering doubt when the object, increasing radiance, started to move to south-east, across Cop Heap and away over the shoulder of Battlesbury towards Starr Hill.

It was huge! It moved slowly, sedately, throwing off a brightful and fitful halo around the main body of the craft.

We had now picked out a second, similar shaped object, much higher than the first, smaller because of this factor and a dull mat white in hue. It was keeping pace with the bright orange UFO, tailing and trailing it. But our attention was abruptly dragged from the visual treat...

I had sped back to the main group of watchers, eager that one in particular - she is over 80 years of age - should see the second and smaller UFO, too. She was so thrilled as I pointed it out, able to view it easily with the naked eye. The others had spotted it and

I heard cries coming from the field - and tearing towards us, ashen faced, were Chris and Robert.

They drank hot coffee to recover from shock and shattered composure. Then they blurted out an amazing story. When they reached Kidnapper's Hole, where the hedge ends, they saw the flame or 'burning bush' peter out; and in its place was a tall figure, dressed in a tight-fitting black suit that had a sheen reflected in their torchlight. A gold-coloured 'sash' or 'bandolier' (the youths' terms) was around its neck and shoulder, winding around the waist.

Bob is 6 ft 1 in tall. He thought the figure to be a good foot taller than he. Chris confirmed this. Long, dark hair falling to the shoulders, bright eyes - and rather 'feminine' features, the lads felt. The figure did not move - but they, overcome by fear, could not approach nearer than about 30 yards from it. Courage and nerves failing, they ran back to the hilltop.

The two were closely questioned by the rest of the watchers while I made my way across the field, bathed in moonlight. I had a torch and was bearing a friendly message in Morse code in front of me, to relieve my own apprehension and any felt by the visitor. My knees were knocking, I admit, yet one can never reach understanding of the unknown when fear triumphs over genuine love and concern for all others...

Nothing was seen of the figure from then on. Chris, Bob, Julian and John revisited the spot near Kidnapper's Hole where it had stood: they all saw the hedgerow, clubhouse, two trees on the skyline; none smelled smoke or ashes.

Perhaps in the general excitement, because one is caught in the thrall of something truly inexplicable and unworldly, one says peculiar things at times like these, which are inordinately charged with human emotion. "I've an idea 'they' will be back, but not in the same form," I recall predicting to the watchers.

Events at around 11.45 p.m., extending to about 1 a.m. on Thursday, August 28, were probably more puzzling than the earlier sightings and landing. Forming a triangle in themselves, in a perfectly clear sky shot by a full moon's rays and a myriad stars, three cigar-shaped formations appeared. They were cloudlike, yet having a density and 'roundness' to them, quite plasma-like.

One was over Battlesbury, to the east, the two others over the Cradle Hill copse area. Two vanished after a while, then the third - over the copse - broke in half. The bottom portion cut away, separated from the rest, and was transformed into a pyramid shape, symmetrical and of a three-dimensional quality in the atmosphere.

It was at times completely opaque and solid, at others transparent, so that one could see through it and view the interior. It was startling - and provides another facet to the whole subject and significance, maybe, of ufology. The only one of the 11-strong group not witnessing this pyramid was Mrs Bent, asleep in her car after a long journey, a tiring day and night...

Bob Strong and Sybil, meanwhile, watched the two UFOs glide gently overhead from their sighting point near a farm barn near Starr Hill. They curled away east, winking lights seen at ground level by the two observers - Bob is a former R.A.F. bomber crewman - at a spot near the horizon to the east.

Ground-to-air communication between earth base and craft? We can only surmise and theorise on this possibility. But 13 witnesses of the two objects - noiseless and gliding slowly until they spun at swifter speed upward - are far better and more convincing than one poor soul on his own.

The area around Kidnapper's Hole (the name has an ominous ring to it, yet the landing there was open and probably coincidental) showed one small patch of burning the following morning. Even so, it did not appear to be recently caused, and no rubbish had been ignited there for days.

So - back to square one in the giant jigsaw puzzle of the Great and Spectacular Unknown that these craft constitute? Not quite... This sighting and landing was in keeping with sundry strange incidents around Warminster over the past five years; especially the singular case of the 'flying sword' UFO and 'phoenix bird' sighting

that hovered overhead for three minutes, amethyst in colour until duck-bobbing away, when it changed to crimson. These stories, true and with witnesses present, will have to 'keep' for the time being.

We are inclined to believe, from available evidence that has steadily accumulated on the local UFO front, that there exists at Heaven's Gate, on Longleat Estate near Warminster, a point on our earth where a 'window' or 'gate' exists that allows two dimensions to converge, meet and - who knows - even communicate. What our scientists would term a 'time warp,' in effect. More of that anon...

Of one thing we are sure: although I am an Essex man, reared there and born in Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire, Warminster is a place which will be remembered for many years. It could be that - whatever is designed to happen in future - it will be a focal point of any big cosmic operation affecting our planet. May I leave you with a sobering thought?

If any big power on earth developed a metal that cannot be detected by radar, resisting and not affected by radio waves, this would create the biggest threat yet to present world peace. It would further heighten nuclear buildup dangers. It just might be that such a metal has been perfected - and near future years will prove much.

But we can be quietly confident that a greater intelligence from a different dimension on our earth, in concert with extra-terrestrial travellers who are more enlightened in universal knowledge, will be keeping a wary eye on these threats - and could even neutralise the launching of nuclear warheads onto unsuspecting peoples in the next decade.

No bets taken - but it is worth thinking over, carefully...

BUFORA NORTHERN CONFERENCE

Cesar's Wakefield Hotel, Wakefield, Yorkshire, September 6, 1969

The event was organised by the Halifax Branch of BUFORA. As one has come to expect from that group, the conference was run without the silly gimmicks and circus-like atmosphere which tends to mar such gatherings.

The first part of the meeting was chaired by Captain Ivar Mackay, Chairman of BUFORA, and consisted of a lecture by Mr C. Maxwell Cade, well-known to ufologists as a consultant to Flying Saucer Review and author of "Other Worlds than Ours" and "The Taming of the Thunderbolts."

We will deal with Mr Maxwell Cade's speech very briefly, as he covered far too much ground for us to give an adequate summary of it in the space available. In his talk he developed many of the ideas discussed in "Other Worlds Than Ours" and in his FSR series, "Thoughts on Alien Intelligences."

He pointed out the connections between parapsychology and ufology and urged that there should be closer co-operation between students of the two subjects.

The second session, after tea, was chaired by Malcolm Bull, Chairman of the Halifax Branch of BUFORA. The speakers were Anthony Durham, Stephen Smith, psychologist Colin Ingleton, psychiatrist Dr Cadogan, and the Rev. Coburn.

Mr Durham discussed the various objections to the hypothesis that we are being visited by beings from other planets.

Mr Smith began by informing us of a recent landing report from Tynham, Dorset, and assured us that BUFORA was investigating it. He then described the work of the research section of BUFORA and discussed the problems involved in maintaining an efficient system for investigating UFO reports. This led to considerable discussion of the physical problems of getting investigators to the spot as soon as possible after a report is received, and the question of what questions should be asked of the witnesses.

The psychologists, although obviously new to the subject, were both of the opinion that their knowledge and experience could be very useful in the pursuit of serious UFO research.

Most of those present seemed to accept the increasing importance

of psychology in our subject, but there were the inevitable signs of dissension from both physical scientists and physical pseudo-scientists.

The meeting was wound up by the Rev. Coburn, who gave us a sort of pep-talk. He told us that we must become good earthmen before we could become good spaceren, advised us to take the UFOs in our stride--as he does--and, finally, to remember that "life is meant for living." Thus uplifted, we made our way home.

Such a short review cannot give a balanced impression of the conference, but for those who are basically serious in their approach, it was well worth attending.

NOTES QUOTES & QUERIES

Patrick Moore and Contact

According to a report in the Daily Mail (July 22, 1969), the astronomer Patrick Moore believes that there are intelligent beings on other worlds in the universe and that one day we will communicate with them by telepathy.

Thus it is interesting to note that when Norman Oliver of COS-MOS, an organisation with similar ideas, wrote to Mr Moore inviting him to address COS-MOS members on "astronomy or possible extraterrestrial life," he received the following, flippant reply:-

Selsey, May 11.

Dear Mr. Oliver,

Many thanks for your kind invitation. Alas, I shall be occupied with the meeting of the Interplanetary Parliament on Saturn, which has, as you know, been called by Oko Hongg Flonk in association with Ethereus. The situation on Jupiter is now one of unrelieved gloom, and it must be discussed. My saucer will be taking off from Upper Whortlebury Airport at almost any moment.

I plan to take a holiday afterwards, and play some tennis, perhaps on Mars. However, I shall certainly be knocked out of the planetary championships at an early stage, as the Martians' three hands give them an unfair advantage.

With all good wishes,
(signed) Justin Eideberger
pp Patrick Moore

(COS-MOS, No.4, July 1969)

Membership Secretary of COS-MOS is: Sylvia Shaw, Flat 20a, 20 Dyke Road, Brighton.

New UFO Organisation

Mr Nigel Stephenson has formed the National Unidentified Flying Object Research Organisation, NUFORO. The Organisation publishes a Bulletin, which they are willing to exchange for other publications, as well as issuing it to their members. Mr Stephenson's address is: 12 Dorset Road, Cheam, Sutton, Surrey. Telephone: 01-642 1773.

Interest Declines in U.S.A.

John A. Keel, in No.2 of his publication ANOMALY, reports:- FATE magazine recently carried a generous plug for the FSR special NORTH AMERICAN REPORT in their Report to the Readers section, giving our address. It produced six queries. Our offer to supply original copies of the N.C. "little man" photo produced 15 queries from Europe and 4 from the U.S. Random printed 200,000 copies of the Condon Report in paperback and they failed to "move".

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Front page photographs by Ronald Brown

For exchange, or price one shilling, as available

Published and printed by the editors
